

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the present amendment and comments herein.

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended according to the examiner's suggestion in order to overcome the objection by the examiner. Claims 1 and 2 have also been amended to better clarify some of the elements and their relationship with each other. These amendments to claims 1 and 2 were not done to distinguish the claims from the prior art. Therefore, claims 1-10 are allowable.

New claim 11 is added to recite a belt retractor for a vehicle safety belt. The belt retractor comprises a frame (9) and a belt spool (1) which is rotatably mounted in the frame (9), and a locking disc (3) which comprises an array of circumferentially spaced locking teeth connected with said belt spool. A first locking catch (5) which is supported on said frame (9) and engages into said locking disc (3) to lock rotation of said belt spool. The first locking catch (5) is able to swing about a point of rotation which is arranged such that with the first locking catch (5) guided into said locking disc (3) a virtual line, which passes through a point of contact between said first locking catch (5) and said locking disc (3) extends perpendicularly to a tooth face at said point of contact, extends between said point of rotation and a rotation axis of said belt spool (1).

The belt retractor further comprises a second locking catch (6) which is supported on said frame (9) and engages into said locking disc (3) to lock rotation of said belt

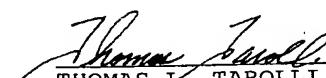
Serial No. 10/679,570

spool. The second locking catch (6) is able to swing about a point of rotation which is arranged such that with said second locking catch (6) guided into said locking disc (3), a virtual line which passes through a point of contact between said second locking catch (6) and said locking disc (3) extends perpendicularly to a tooth face at said point of contact, and runs on the side of said point of rotation facing away from said rotation axis of said belt spool (1). None of the prior art discloses or suggests all of the features claimed in claim 11. Therefore, claim 11 is allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,



THOMAS L. TAROLLI
Reg. No. 20,177

TAROLLI, SUNDHEIM, COVELL,
& TUMMINO L.L.P.
526 Superior Avenue, Suite 1111
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-1400
Phone: (216) 621-2234
Fax: (216) 621-4072
Customer No.: 26,294

-8- **BEST AVAILABLE COPY**